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## Fordham University Sesquicentennial 1841-1991 and Dedication

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## FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SESQUICENTENNIAL 1841-1991

In celebration of Fordham University's Sesquicentennial, the Premiere issue of the *Fordham Entertainment, Media & Intellectual Property Law Forum* recalls the founding days of the Law School.

Thursday, September 28, 1905, was a day quite typical of the days of the first decade in the new century. There were riots in Budapest, an exodus from Port Said, and fires in Panama.<sup>1</sup> At home, a famous lawyer, Wheelers H. Peckham, the Prosecutor of the Tweed Ring, had died, Charles Evan Hughes was stepping up his special investigation of the insurance industry.<sup>2</sup>

The pace of life was tranquil and the price of things low. The *New York Times* cost a penny.<sup>3</sup> The Bronx was a borough of rolling farmlands and scattered villages. And in one of them, Fordham, on the Rose Hill campus of Fordham University, the School of Law opened.

The establishment of the law school had been at the insistence of the University's President John J. Collins, S.J. Originally, the law school was scheduled to be housed at the College of Saint Francis Xavier on West 16th Street in Manhattan; however, the law school was ousted at the last minute because of the lack of space. Unable to locate suitable quarters downtown, Father Collins decided to open the law school on the Rose Hill campus. The law school became a reality when its first class of thirteen students walked through the doors of what is now called Collins Hall to begin not only a legal education but a legal institution.

The law school, within the next few years, moved to various different locations in downtown Manhattan. By 1912, a separate evening division was opened. From 1915 to 1943 the school was located on the 28th floor of the Woolworth building. In 1943, the law school joined several other Fordham schools in a university-owned building at the corner of Broadway and Duane, affectionately known as "302 Broadway".<sup>4</sup> The law school found its own permanent home in 1961 when it moved to Lincoln Square as the first building in a complex that would come to be known as Lincoln Center.

Today, the Law School is located in the heart of New York City. It is next door to Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts which includes the Metropolitan Opera House, New York State Theater and Avery Fisher Hall. It is also minutes away from the world's leading legal and financial centers. This fortunate location affords Fordham

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1. FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, 75 YEARS 1905-1980, 1 (1980).

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENT HANDBOOK, 1990-1991, 6 (1990).

law students an opportunity for personal and professional growth unique in American legal education.

Paul Fuller, the head of Coudert Brothers law firm and one of the most famous international lawyers of his day, became the first dean of the law school. He later served as President Woodrow Wilson's personal envoy to Mexico. The law school has always been fortunate in having the services of excellent Deans to provide leadership to the institution. Subsequent to Paul Fuller (1905-1913), they have been, John Whelan (1913-1919), Francis P. Garvin (1919-1923), Ignatius M. Wilkinson (1923-1953), John F.X. Finn (1954-1956), William Hughes Mulligan (1956-1971), Joseph M. McLaughlin (1971-1981) and John D. Ferrick (1982-present).

As Fordham prepares for its Sesquicentennial celebration in 1991 of 150 years of cherished tradition, the promise of the University's motto, *SAPIENTIA ET DOCTRINA*, wisdom and learning, remains among its great gifts to present and future generations. The *Law Forum* will strive to continue the tradition of intellectual excellence in all of its publications.



